



# Community Action Solutions

September - October 2006

## United develops 20-unit housing complex in Pawnee

United Community Action Program Executive Director Johnny Bryant knew there was a need for affordable multifamily housing in Pawnee, but couldn't interest a developer in coming to Pawnee to do a small 20-unit project.

So with the help of federal, state and local partners the agency served as its own developer for the Pawnee Townhomes project.

On September 9, the agency and its partners celebrated a grand opening of the project which is already filled with tenants and has a waiting list.

"This is our first project as developer," said Bryant during a luncheon following a tour of the new project.

The cost was about \$2.8 million, according to David Ellison, housing director.

As developer, United was involved in bringing the partners together, overseeing the construction and now management of the project.

"We're involved in this for the next 40 years," Ellison said.

The project has five buildings with four units in each building. There are two 2-bedroom and two 3-bedroom units in each building. The 2-bedroom units have about 1100 square feet of space and the 3-bedroom units have about 1260 square feet of space. The total electric townhomes are furnished with all major appliances.



*One year after breaking ground for construction of a multifamily housing complex in Pawnee, the project has been completed and is filled with tenants. United Community Action Program was the developer for the project.*



*Johnny Bryant, executive director, United Community Action Program, cuts the ribbon surrounded by staff and project partners for the Pawnee Townhomes project.*

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# OKACAA Annual Conference provides training and recognition for staff members and volunteers

*State Senator Constance Johnson spoke at the closing luncheon.*

**Award recipients on pages 3-4**



*Linda Tarpley, from Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group, (left) met with Candy Watson, Debby Foreman and Mary Ann Overall, all from Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency, between conference sessions.*



*Mae Rowlett, program coordinator with the Administration for Children & Families, described techniques for managing stress.*



*Attorney James Thornley led board and staff members through the requirements of Oklahoma's Open Meeting Act.*



*Rhonda Harding-Hill, program planner with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, reviewed changes in the RX for Oklahoma prescription assistance program.*

# Community Action staff recognized for years of service at banquet

## Big Five

### Community Services

10 years

Berniece Aplin  
Brenda Daniel  
Lawanna Dopson  
Kathryn Fenti  
Laura Gentry  
Cathey Keirseay  
Janet Lindsey  
Belinda McGee  
Sandra Morrow  
Susan Weeks  
Edward Yarbrough  
Diane Young

15 years

Hettie Ashford  
Kerry Manning  
Frances Speers  
Jacob Thompson  
Lorrie Wright  
20 years  
George Breeden  
Paul Cartledge  
Tonya Willoughby

25 years

Lou Von Agers  
Mary Eddings  
Madonna Edwards  
30 years  
Jessie Wright

## Central Oklahoma

### Community Action Agency

10 years

Ernest Carter  
Virginia Corson  
Vicki Hodges  
Dorothy Johnson

25 years

Jimmie Hurst

30 years

Martha Young

### Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties

10 years

Rhonda Banks  
Stina Byrd  
Connie Crew  
Freeman Dockins  
Anita Forbis  
Lonnie Groce  
Mary Kuykendall  
Arleasa Lehman  
Mitzie Lewis

Ronda Neighbors

Gearldine Shields  
Gwendolyn Simmons  
Alice Stark  
Kristin Vanfleet  
Lorenza Veloz  
Merland Wright

15 years

Nancy Adams  
Levetta Berry  
Vanessa Birmingham  
Jerome Blue  
Sharon Burnett  
Kimberly Cowley  
Nathan Crawford  
Linda Deloney  
Demetri Givens  
Nettie Gorden  
Myra Harris  
Don Jackson  
Lanell Johnson  
Connie Lacy  
Lauren Martin  
Helen Mewborn  
Olivia Purvey

20 years

Hildreth Langoc  
Gloria Love  
Tamara McAlvain-Westcott  
Pauline Shannon

25 years

Erma Eddington  
Rose Mandala  
Tarleace Robinson  
30 years  
Georgia B. Jamison  
35 years  
Joycelyn Brown  
Carolyn Shaw  
Linda Tease

### Community Action Development Corp.

10 years

Sheri Allen  
Midge Martin  
Darla Wolfe  
15 years  
Teena McCuiston  
Robert Meador  
Dorothy Moore  
Walda Woodruff

20 years

Marie Bigger  
J.D. Dobbs  
Theresa Dobbs  
Ruby Elix  
Mary Smith

Lynda Vaughn

25 years  
Gwen Geimausaddle  
Brent Morey  
Janet Palmer  
30 years  
Brenda Bryant  
35 years  
Carrie Sheffield

### Community Action Resource & Development

10 years

Heather Martinez  
15 years  
Loretta Dean  
Joni Gable

25 years

Ellen Goedecke  
Barbara Hankins  
35 years  
Ozella Virgil

### Community Development Support Association

15 years

Dianne Juhnke  
Linda Shipley

### Cookson Hills Community Action Foundation

10 years

Christine Hill  
Dellphia Miller  
Bonnie Poteet  
Delayna Watts  
Lisa Williams

15 years

Dave Budder  
Vickie Cherry  
Lisa Colburn  
Geraldine McGreevy

20 years

Evelyn Brown  
Zelma Byrd  
Francis Cochran  
Brian Drywater  
Gail Gates  
Elsie Howell  
Rachel Parris  
Rae Spears  
Jean Wood  
40 years  
Jean McCollum

## Deep Fork Community Action Foundation

10 years

Donna Morrison  
Jeff Schuman  
20 years  
Regina Seeman

## Delta Community Action Foundation

10 years

Angela Burk  
Glenda Fisher  
Hellon Leveridge  
Elsie New  
20 years  
Juanita Young  
30 years  
Edna F. Keele  
Karen Nichols  
Chad Payne  
35 years  
Jessie Rae Stone

## Great Plains Improvement Foundation

10 years

Michelle Collins

## INCA Community Services

10 years

Carolyn Walker  
15 years  
Latoy Eldred  
20 years  
Joyce Smith  
30 years  
Virginia Pack

## KI BOIS Community Action Foundation

10 years

Betty Brown  
Christy Dickson  
Rhonda Garner  
Susan Holbrook  
Sherri Huggins  
Carolyn Hutchins  
Teresa Lindsey  
Kelli McGill  
Opal Owens  
Mary Ritter  
Doris Smith  
15 years  
Donna Benson  
Teresa Brown  
Ron Davis

Continued on page 4



## Community Action staff recognized for years of service

*Continued from page 3*

Matt Gentry  
Bobbie Gilreath  
Peggy May  
Rosalind Newby  
Kristie Reasnor  
Tommy Taylor  
Sarah Tucker  
Jeanetta Weston  
Wanda Whitfield  
**20 years**  
Deanne Booth  
Debra Restine  
Diana Sorrels  
Dorothy Young  
**25 years**  
Lynn Johnson  
**30 years**  
Donna Carolan  
Ruby Nelson  
David Ward

### Little Dixie Community Action Agency

**10 years**  
James Dancer  
Donna Hudson  
LaShonda Johnson  
Lori Nichols  
Cathy Wilson  
**15 years**  
Gary Daniel  
Barbara Johnson  
Shirley Routon  
Ronald Walker  
**20 years**  
Sandra Carper  
**30 years**  
Brenda Needham

### Ted Allen Memorial Award

Pam Hall, housing specialist at KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, has been selected to receive the 2006 Ted Allen Memorial Award in recognition of her efforts to help low-income families achieve homeownership.

She has provided housing counseling services to over 1,000 individuals and families.

### Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency

**10 years**  
Robin Kirksey  
**15 years**  
Kim Baldwin  
**30 years**  
Paula Barnes  
Patti Stump

### Opportunities, Inc.

**10 years**  
Deborah Biggs  
Shelly Eller  
Jo Anne Jones  
**15 years**  
Georgia Forthum  
Patti Grubbs  
Carol McNeill  
Russell Morrison

### Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group

**10 years**  
Michael Balderas  
Patricia McMaster  
Bonnie Ritchey  
**15 years**  
Aulston D. Ridley  
**20 years**  
Patricia Goodlow  
**25 years**  
Mary Garcia  
Linda Tarpley

### Twin Rivers Head Start

**15 years**  
Kristi Shivers  
Wendy Stacy  
**25 years**  
Zora Howell

### United Community Action Program

**10 years**  
Denise Brandon  
Neena Givens  
Troy Lynn Kordatzky  
Teena McKinley  
Joyce Smith  
**15 years**  
Rhonda Bristol  
Mary Campbell  
Rhonda Mizer  
Kim Rice

### Washita Valley Community Action Council

**10 years**  
Darlene Blunt  
Jennie Cannon  
Janet Johnson  
**15 years**  
Sue Hart  
Gayle Robertson  
**20 years**  
Dolores Bowens  
Peggy Sayers  
**40 years**  
Mollie Roberts



*Training was provided for board members and executive directors, and housing, human resources, financial and other program staff members during OKACAA's Annual Conference held October 18-19 in Oklahoma City.*

### Head Start Awards

Holly Rutledge was presented the 2006 Teacher of the Year and Charolette Reeves received the 2006 Margaret M. Coughlin Award. Both are from Big Five Community Services.

### Fred Tucker Service Award

Brenda Needham, associate director at Little Dixie Community Action Agency, was presented the 2006 Fred Tucker Service Award in recognition of her career dedicated to Community Action.

During her 30-year career, Needham has supervised and provided direction for almost every program at Little Dixie.

### Guy Davis Leadership Award

Kenny Barnhart, director of the Developmental Disabilities Program for KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, was presented the 2006 Guy Davis Leadership Award that recognizes achievement and innovation.

During the past year, Barnhart led an effort to create a home for autistic adults. It was the first for Oklahoma.

### Volunteer of the Year

Letha Drummond, a 92-year-old RSVP volunteer for KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, was named the 2006 Volunteer of the Year.

She spent over 600 volunteer hours at the Pocola Senior Center this past year. She also spent time at area nursing centers where she sang and played her guitar for the residents.

# OKACAA elects new officers for 2007-08

Karen Nichols, executive director, Delta Community Action Foundation, Lindsay, has been elected president of the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies.

Jean Cooper, executive director, Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency, Jay, will serve as the new first vice president and Jeff Schuman, executive director, Deep Fork Community Action Foundation, Okmulgee, is the second vice president.

Brent Morey, executive director, Community Action Development Corporation, Frederick, will be serving as secretary.

James E. Sconzo, executive director, Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties, is the new treasurer.

The new officers will serve two-year terms. They were selected from the 18-member board of directors.



*Jeff Schuman*



*Karen Nichols*



*Jean Cooper*



*Brent Morey*



*Little Dixie Community Action Agency's storyboard won the first place award at the Community Action Partnership 2006 Annual Conference held in Orlando. (Photo provided by the Community Action Partnership.)*



*James E. Sconzo*



Comanche County Board of County Commissioners issued a proclamation declaring October 30 as Weatherization Day. Pictured are, from left, Commissioner Susan Ulrich, Virginia Spencer and Bill Havron, both from Great Plains Improvement Foundation, and Commissioners Ron Kirby and Gail Turner. (Photo provided by Great Plains Improvement Foundation.)



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## Weatherization works in Oklahoma

As cold weather approaches, most families across Oklahoma are turning up their thermostats to combat dropping temperatures. For low-income families, however, cranking up the heat is not always an option.

Low-income families pay 16 percent or more of their annual income for energy compared with only five percent for other families.

Oklahoma's Community Action Agencies are helping these low-income families reduce their energy costs through the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program.

This program provides permanent solutions to reduce the energy burden on low-income families by installing

cost-effective, energy efficiency materials and services.

About \$3.6 million in federal funds are funneled through the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for the program. The Oklahoma Energy Resources Board provided another \$1 million to help the 19 Community Action Agencies weatherize homes. OG&E's Hand-N-Hand program contributed \$20,000 to assist its customers.

Weatherization crews use computerized energy audits to determine the most cost-effective measures for each home. They also assess related health and safety conditions.

Gov. Brad Henry has declared October 30 as Weatherization Day 2006.

## United developer of housing in Pawnee

*Continued from page 1*

The city of Pawnee is upgrading the infrastructure in the area including new water and sewer lines, and street paving.

During the formal ribbon-cutting ceremony, which was moved inside because of rain, community leaders echoed the need for affordable housing and praised United for its efforts.

"The thing we need here in Pawnee is affordable housing," said Pawnee Council President Tom Briggs.

Clark Shouse, president, First National Bank of Pawnee, echoed the need for affordable housing.

"This is just the start. Hopefully it will continue," Shouse said.